International Weather and Crop Summary

August 15 - 21, 2004

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Across northwestern Europe, widespread rain continued to delay winter grain harvesting, especially in England, while boosting soil moisture for reproductive to filling summer crops.

FSU-WESTERN: Several days of dry weather helped winter and spring grain harvesting in most areas.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Unseasonably warm, dry weather persisted in most of north-central Kazakstan, hastening spring grain maturation, while farther north in Russia, light showers favored immature crops.

CANADA: Earlier-than-normal frost was reported in the southeastern Prairies, raising concerns about possible damage to immature spring grains and oilseeds.

SOUTH ASIA: Beneficial showers continued in central and northern India, but dryness intensified in the south.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather further reduced needed moisture supplies for winter grains in the east, while light showers maintained adequate moisture for crops in the west.

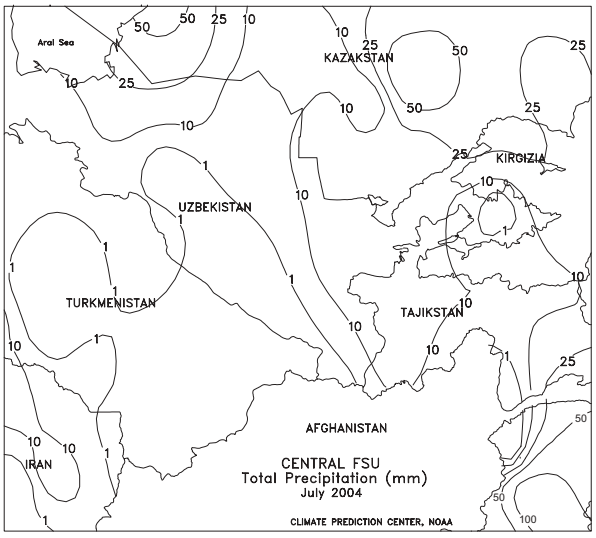
EASTERN ASIA: Heavy showers created unfavorably wet conditions for maturing crops from the North China Plain to the Sichuan Basin, while Typhoon Megi clipped South Korea, providing heavy showers.

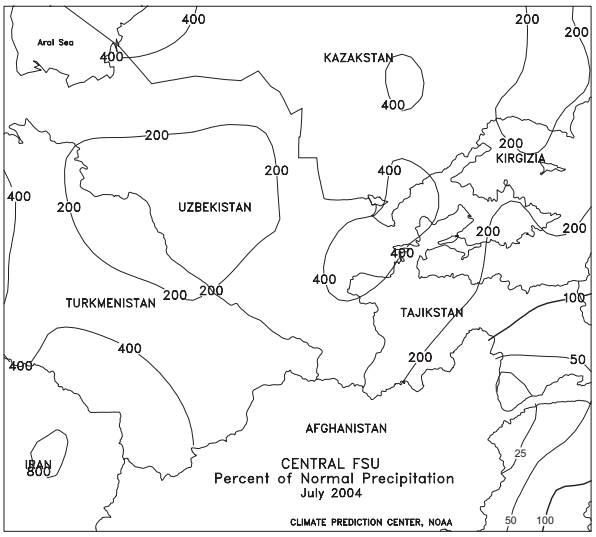
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers increased moisture supplies for rice and corn in the Philippines and Indochina.

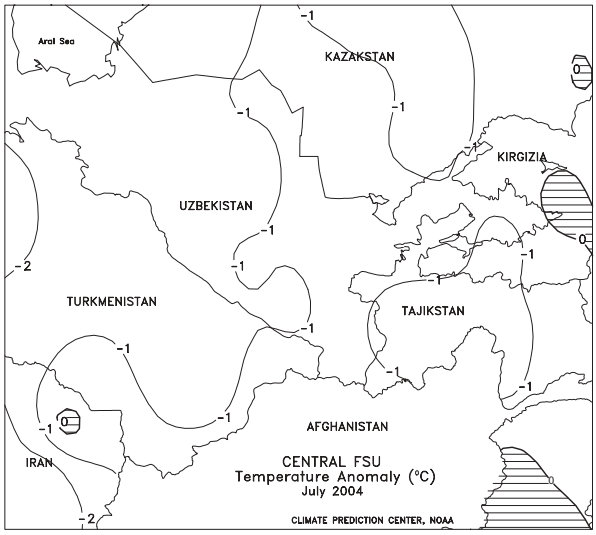
MEXICO: Widespread showers continued to maintain adequate to abundant soil moisture for Mexican summer crops and pastures.

BRAZIL: Warm, dry weather favored coffee harvesting.

ARGENTINA: Cool, showery weather slowed final efforts to plant winter wheat.

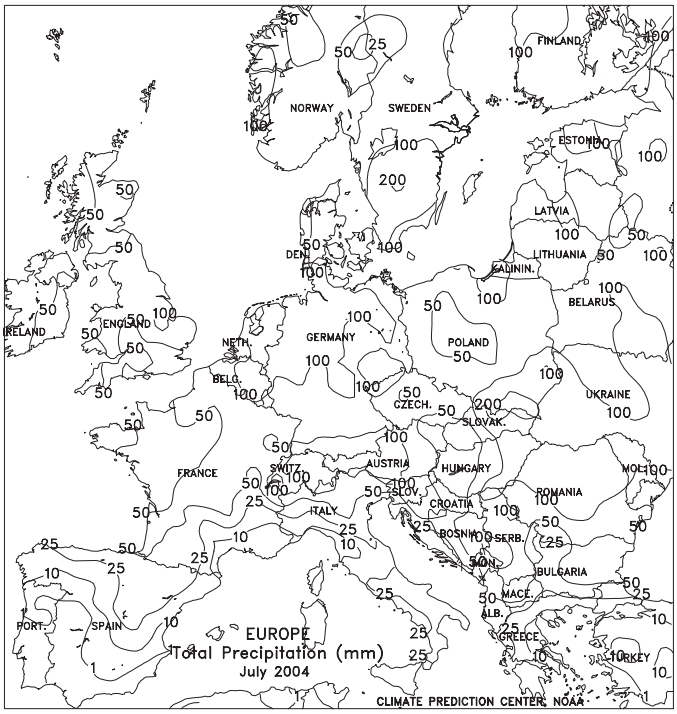


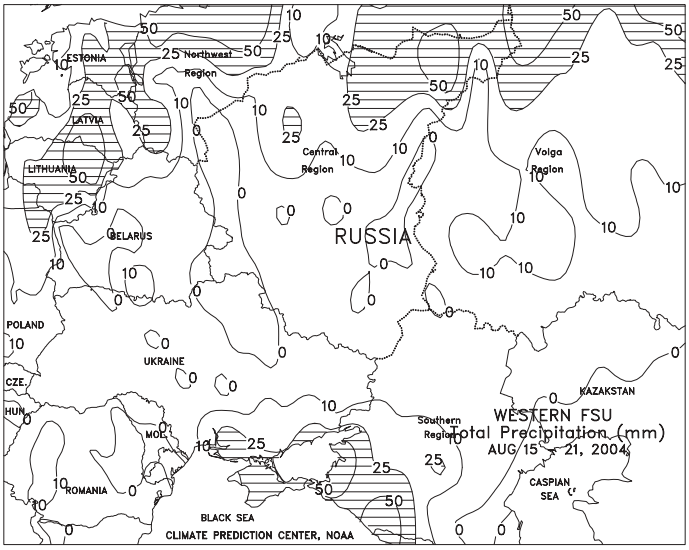




EUROPE

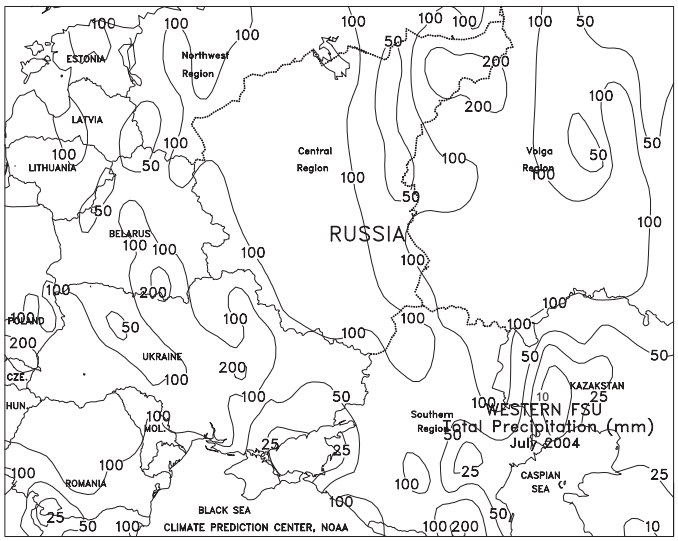
Wet weather continued across England, France, the Low Countries, and Germany, maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture for reproductive to filling summer crops. In England, however, 2 weeks of consecutive rain (15-50 mm) disrupted early winter grain harvesting and probably reduced grain quality. In northern France, the Low Countries, and Germany, and Poland, the rain slowed winter grain harvesting nearing completion. Across the northern half of Poland, widespread rain (10-30 mm) benefited summer crop development but caused minor winter grain harvest delays. From extreme southeastern Poland southward into Hungary, Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria, mostly dry, warm weather favored winter grain harvesting. Adequate soil moisture supplies existed in these areas for filling summer crops. In Italy, mostly dry weather favored filling corn and late spring grain harvesting. In the Iberian Peninsula, unseasonable heavy rain (10-60 mm) continued to boost irrigation supplies across northern Portugal and northwestern Spain but disrupted vineyard work. Temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C above normal across most of Europe and 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in most of Spain. During July, near- to above-normal rainfall slowed winter grain maturation and early harvesting across France, Germany, and England, but beneficially drier weather prevailed in early August. Soil moisture remained favorable for summer crops in these areas and in Romania and Bulgaria. In Hungary and Serbia, dry weather for most of July reduced soil moisture for summer crops but favored winter grain maturation. In late July, however, widespread showers boosted soil moisture supplies.

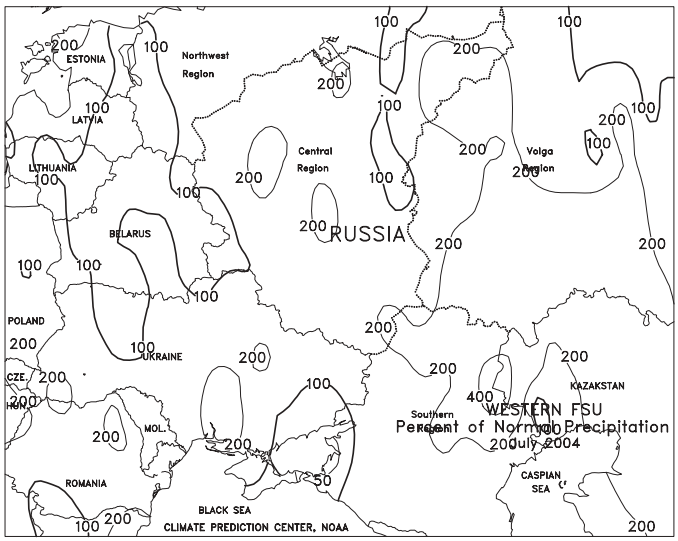


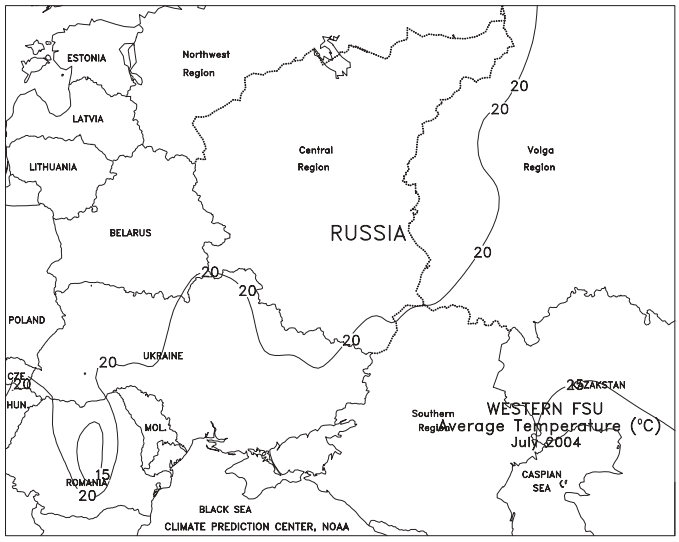


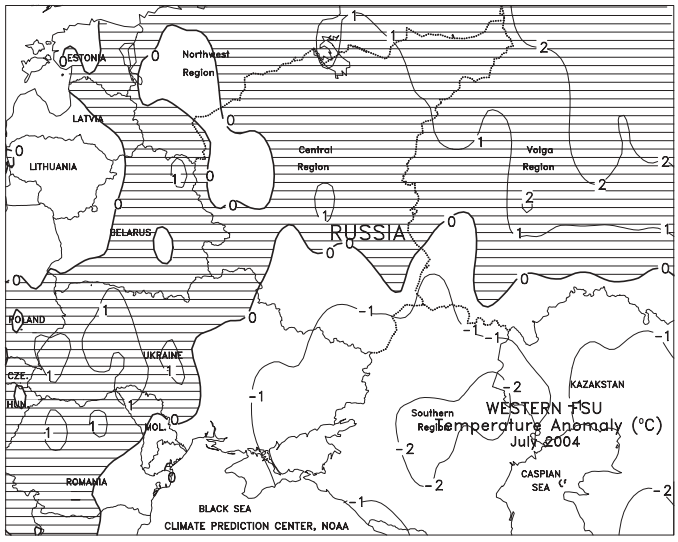
FSU-WESTERN

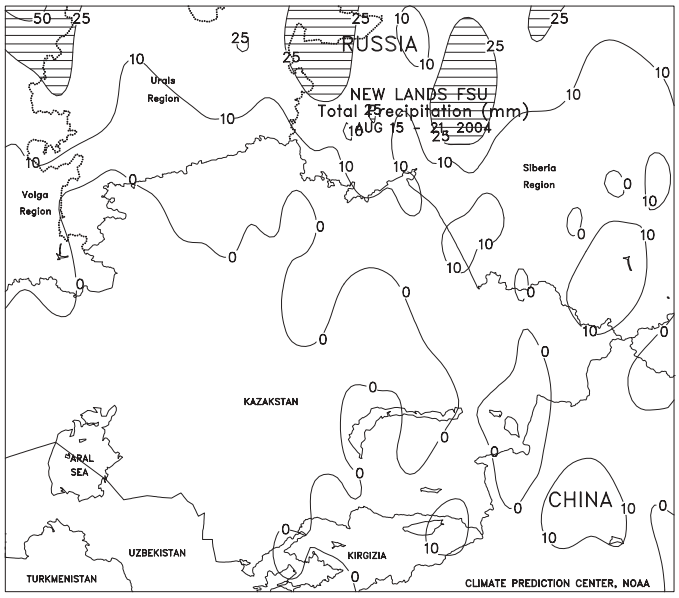
Several days of dry weather prevailed in Russia and Ukraine, helping winter and spring grain harvesting. Significant precipitation (10-25 mm or more) from southern Ukraine eastward into the Southern Region in Russia provided moisture for filling summer crops. Reports as of August 21 from Ukraine indicated that the grain crop was about 86 percent harvested. Elsewhere, warmer, drier weather prevailed in Belarus, improving conditions for winter grain harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in northern Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. In July, above-normal precipitation soaked crop areas in most of Ukraine and Russia, delaying winter grain harvesting and threatening crop quality. More than twice the normal amount of precipitation fell in central Ukraine and the Volga Region in Russia. In Ukraine, the precipitation in the western two-thirds of the country reversed a below-normal rainfall pattern that prevailed in these areas during June, boosting soil moisture for spring-sown crop development. Furthermore, in central Ukraine, most of the precipitation fell during July 11-15, with drier weather helping harvest during the remainder of the month. Unseasonably cool weather persisted during most of July throughout most of Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, slowing summer crop development. In Belarus, above-normal precipitation in July favored winter grains in the filling stage and spring grains that progressed through the reproductive phase of development.





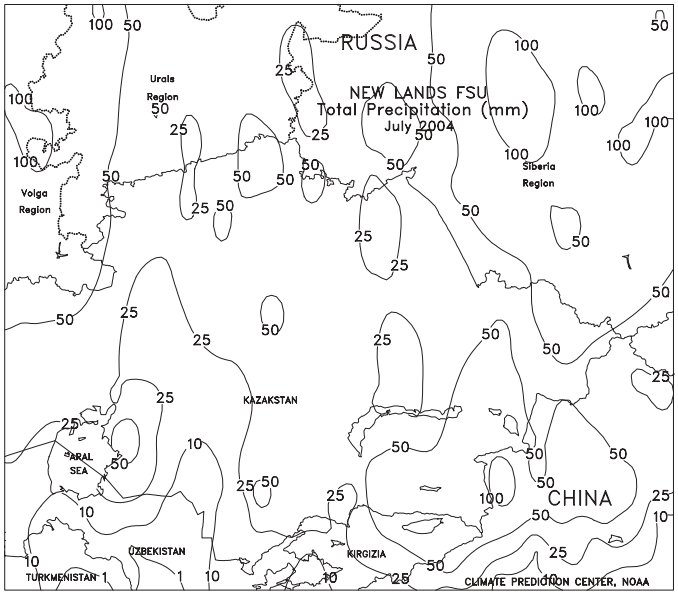


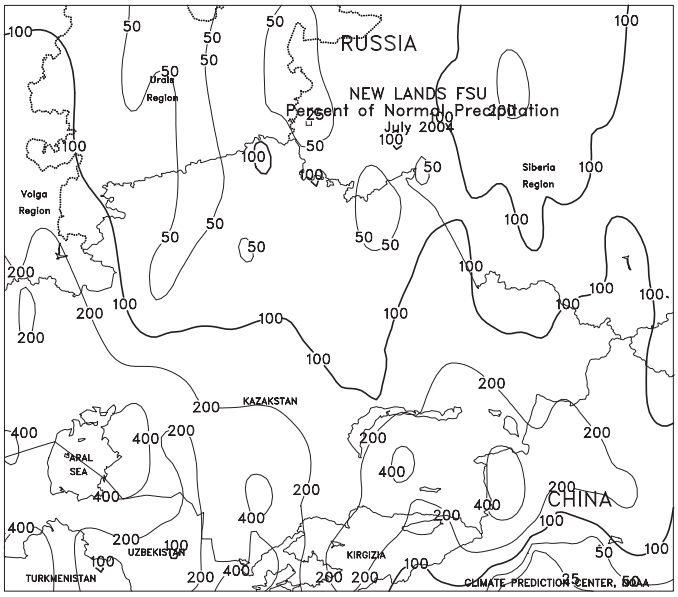


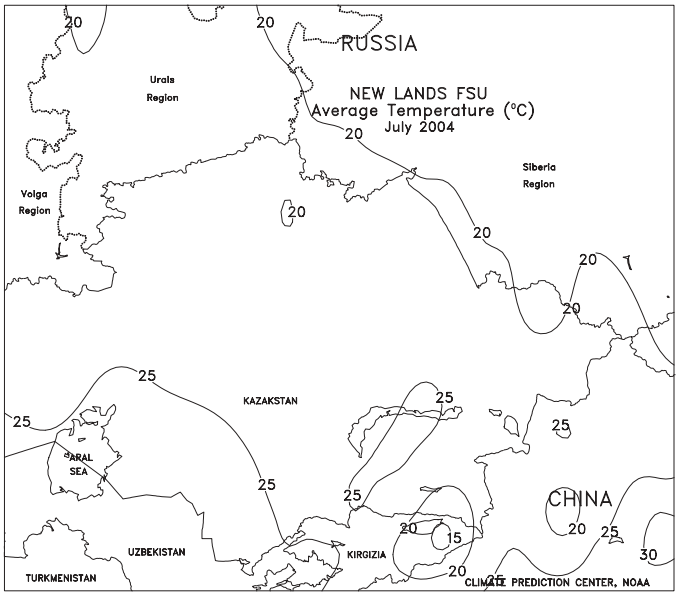


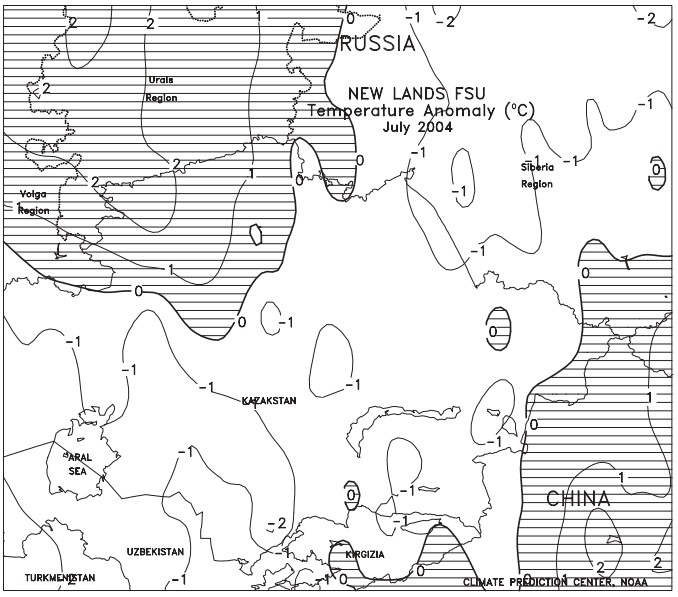
FSU-NEW LANDS

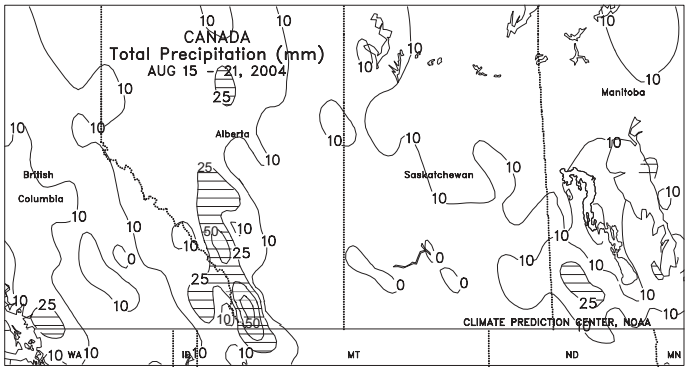
Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to prevail over primary spring grain areas of north-central Kazakstan, hastening maturity in crops. The hottest weather was observed early in the week, with maximum temperatures ranging from 30 to 33 degrees C. A cold front brought cooler weather during the middle of the week but little or no rain. In Russia, light showers (4-25 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Siberia, favoring spring grains in the filling stage. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal in most of Russia. In July, spring grains advanced through the reproductive phase of development in Russia and Kazakstan. Below-normal rainfall was observed in key spring grain areas of north-central Kazakstan in July, worsening conditions for spring grains that progressed through the reproductive phase of development. Farther north in Russia, unfavorably dry weather prevailed throughout most spring grain areas in the Urals Region, reducing crop prospects. Near- to above-normal precipitation was observed in Siberia, favoring spring grain development. On July 27, showers and cool weather overspread most of north-central Kazakstan and the Urals Region and continued into early August, stabilizing conditions for drought-stressed crops. Monthly temperatures in July averaged slightly above normal in north-central Kazakstan and the Urals Region in Russia and near to slightly below normal in Siberia.





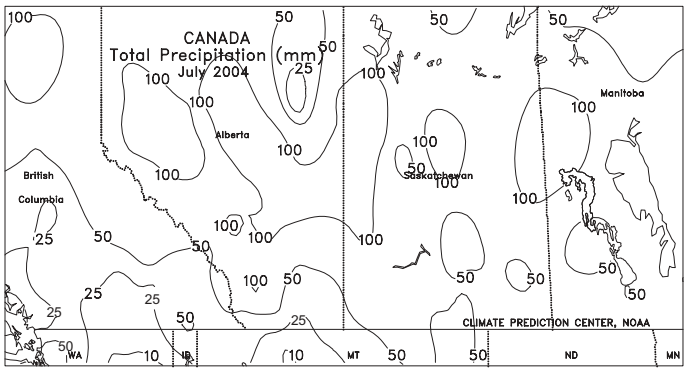


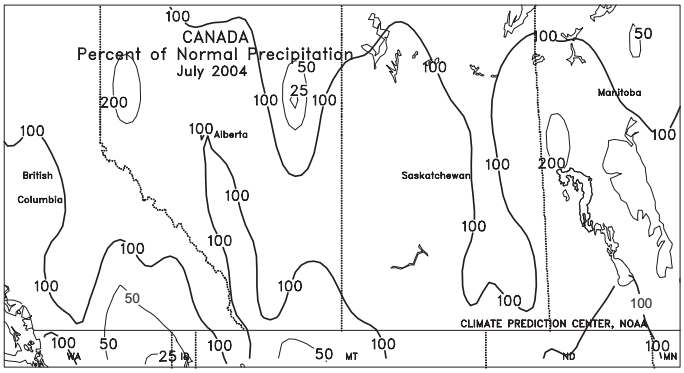




CANADA

On August 20 and 21, freezing temperatures (-3 to 0 degrees C) were recorded across northern and eastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba. The freeze occurred 1 to 2 weeks earlier than normal. The greatest potential for damage would likely be to immature spring grains and oilseeds in the southeastern Prairies that were especially vulnerable due to the combination of late planting and below-normal summer temperatures, and had reportedly fallen as much as 2 to 3 weeks behind in development. The freeze impact will mostly likely be greater on canola than spring grains. In Alberta, temperatures remained well above freezing, maintaining mostly favorable conditions for filling to maturing summer crops. In eastern Canada, mostly dry but cool weather slowed summer crop development. During July, several weeks of warm weather helped to advance development of Prairie spring grains and oilseeds, although below-normal temperatures returned to the region at month's end. Frequent rain maintained mostly favorable moisture reserves for spring crops and pastures, including parts of Alberta and western Saskatchewan that had experienced earlier periods of dryness. In eastern Canada, intermittent periods of sun and showers provided beneficial moisture for corn and soybean development while enabling hay and winter wheat harvesting. However, near- to below-normal temperatures kept crop development behind the usual pace.


CANADA
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
Manitoba
Alberta
British
Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN


CANADA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
Manitoba
Alberta
British
Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
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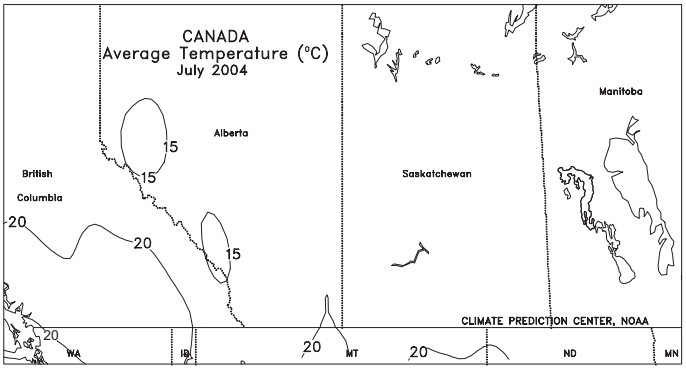
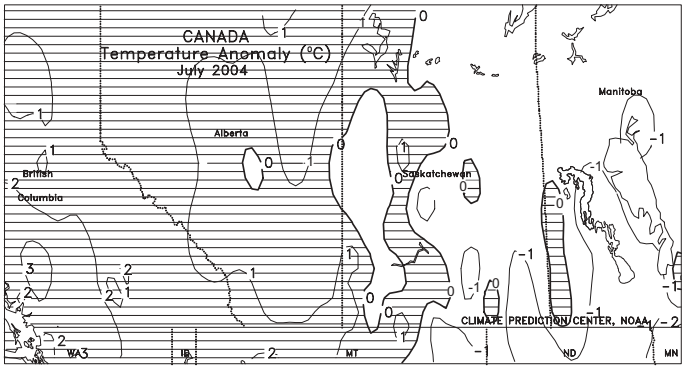
ND
MN


CANADA
Average Temperature (°C)
July 2004
Manitoba
Alberta
British
Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN


CANADA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
July 2004
Manitoba
Alberta
British
Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
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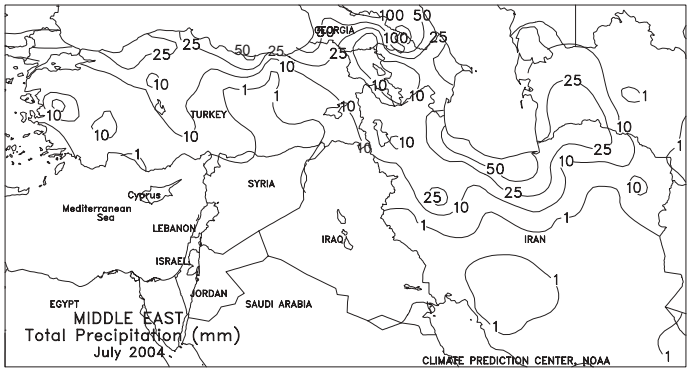
MT
ND
MN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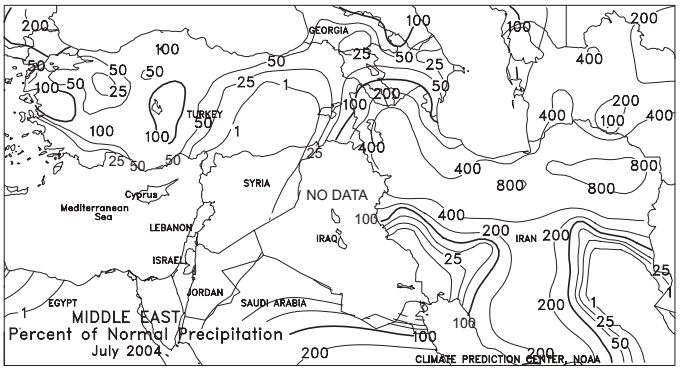
TURKEY
SYRIA
Cyprus
Mediterranean Sea
LEBANON
ISRAEL
JORDAN
EGYPT
IRAQ
IRAN
SAUDI ARABIA
MIDDLE EAST
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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TURKEY
SYRIA
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Cyprus
Mediterranean Sea
LEBANON
ISRAEL
JORDAN
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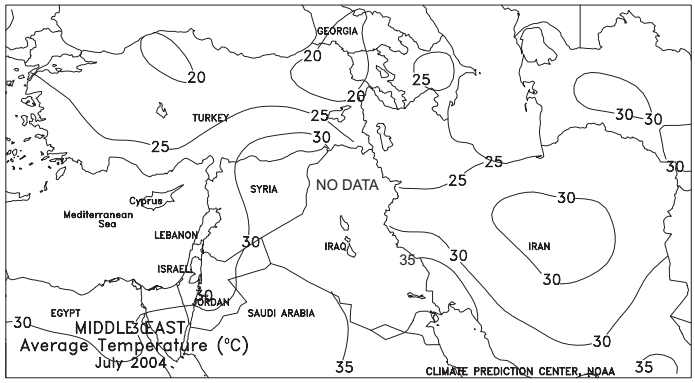
IRAQ
IRAN
SAUDI ARABIA
MIDDLE EAST
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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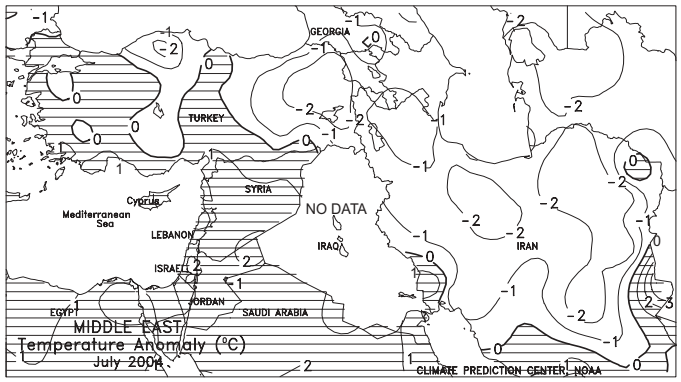
TURKEY
SYRIA
NO DATA
Cyprus
Mediterranean Sea
LEBANON
ISRAEL
JORDAN
EGYPT
IRAQ
IRAN
SAUDI ARABIA
MIDDLE EAST
Average Temperature (°C)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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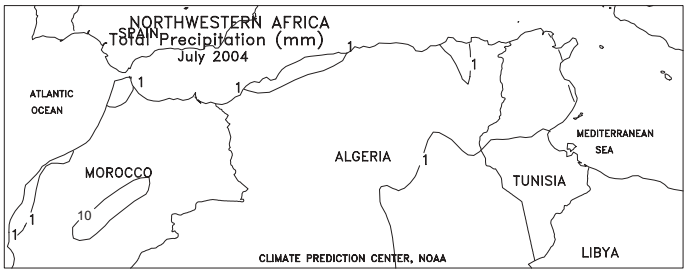
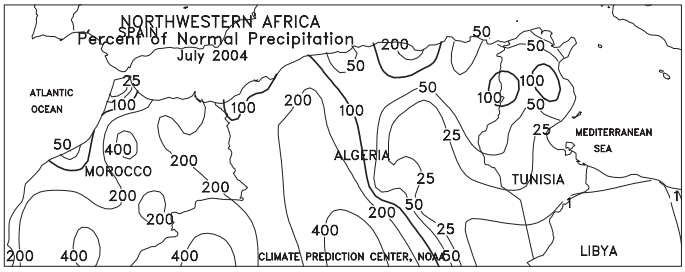
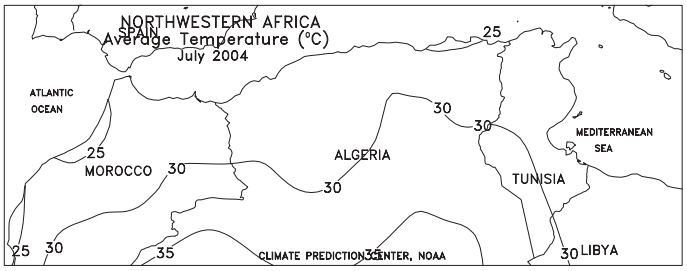
Cyprus
Mediterranean Sea
LEBANON
ISRAEL
JORDAN
EGYPT
IRAQ
IRAN
SAUDI ARABIA
MIDDLE EAST
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


NORTHWESTERN AFRICA
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
SPAIN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
LIBYA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


NORTHWESTERN AFRICA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
SPAIN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
LIBYA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


NORTHWESTERN AFRICA
Average Temperature (°C)
July 2004
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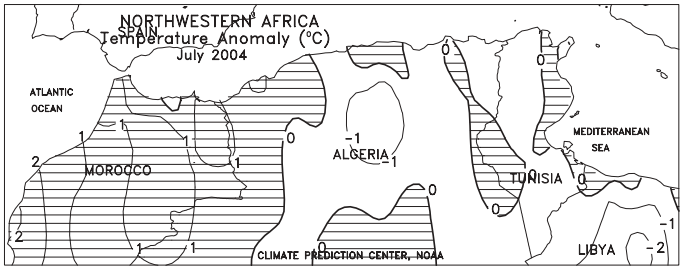
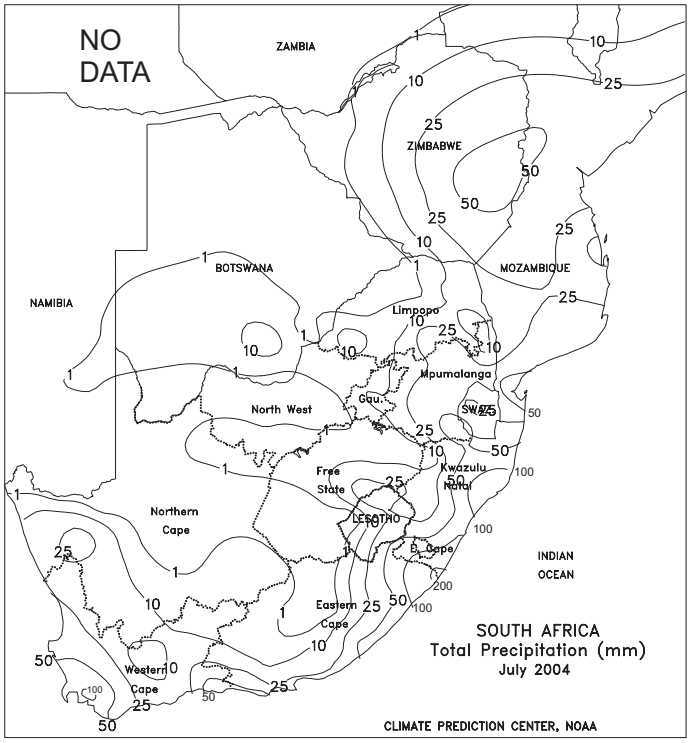
ATLANTIC OCEAN
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
LIBYA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


NORTHWESTERN AFRICA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
July 2004
SPAIN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
LIBYA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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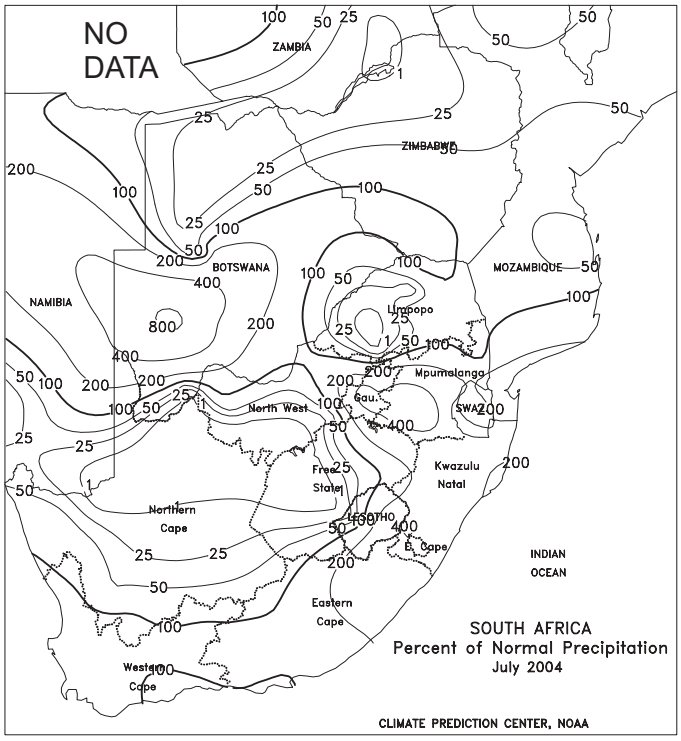
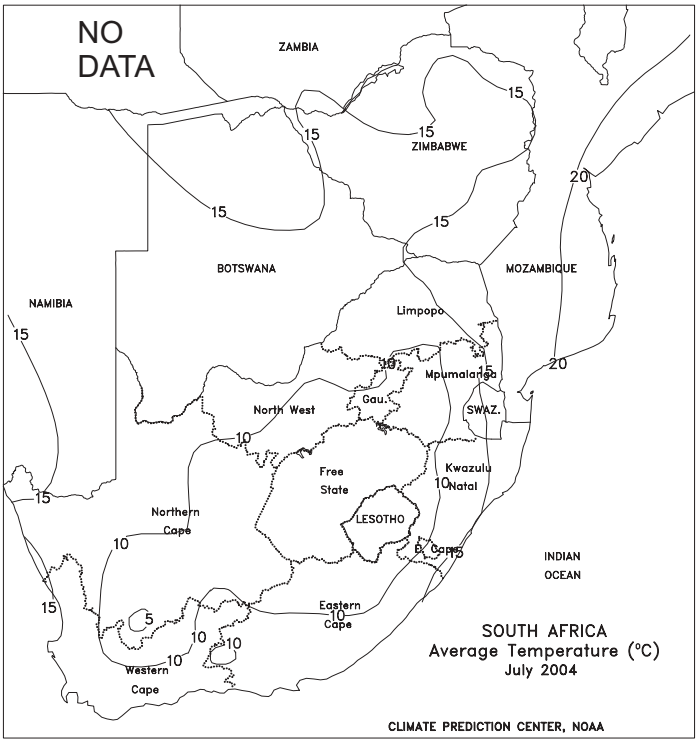
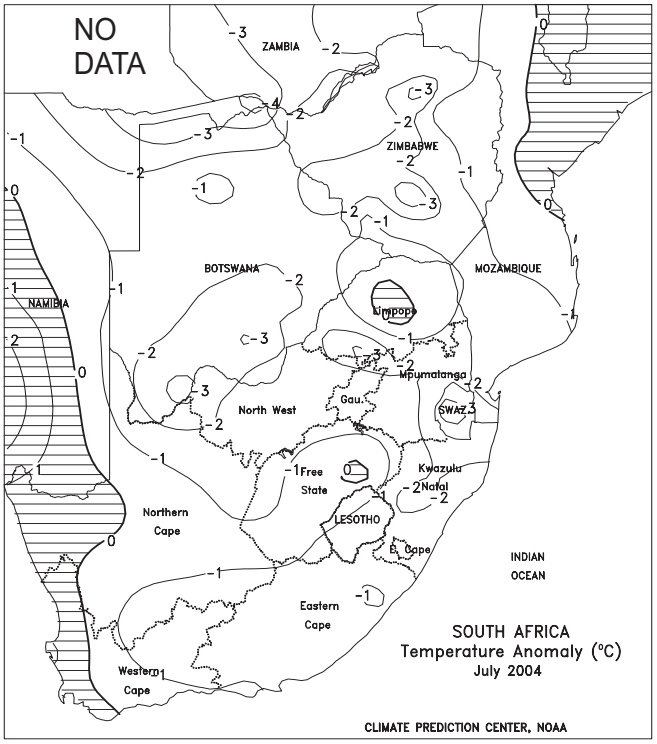
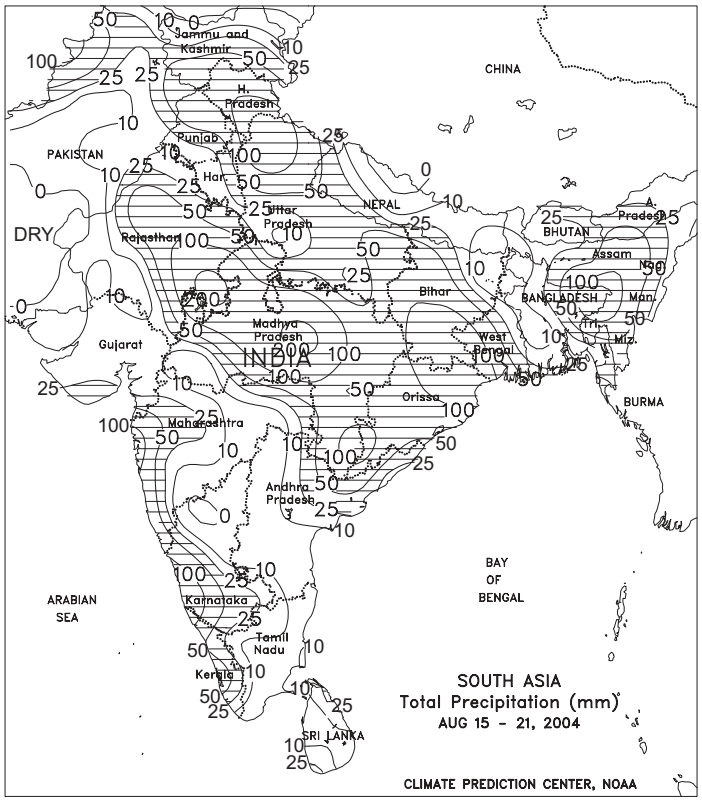
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
Northern Cape
LESOTHO
E. Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
SOUTH AFRICA
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


NO DATA
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
Northern Cape
LESOTHO
E. Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
SOUTH AFRICA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

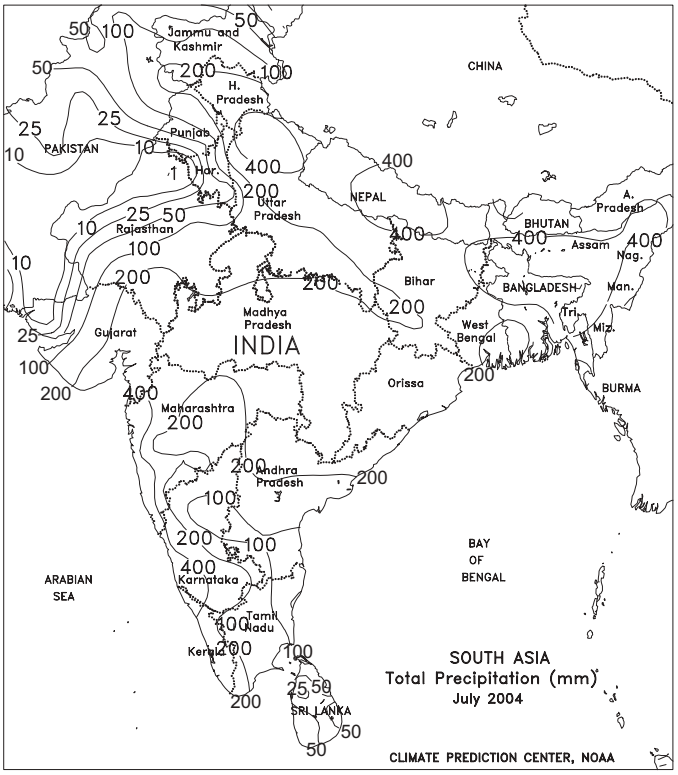


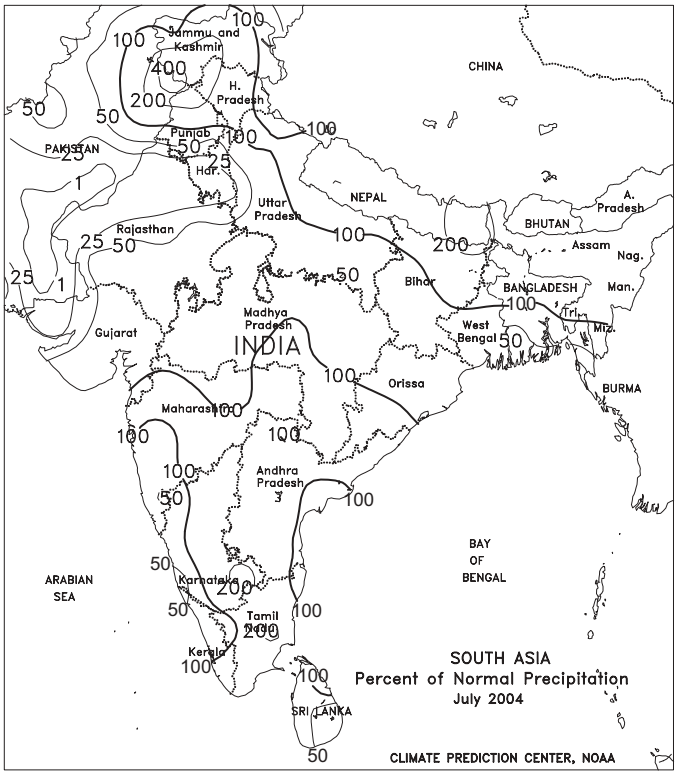




SOUTH ASIA

Showers (25-100 mm or more) maintained generally favorable moisture levels for summer crops throughout most of central and northern India and neighboring sections of Pakistan. However, an intensifying drying trend over southern India, accompanied by seasonably high temperatures (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C), reduced moisture available for development of rainfed rice, coarse grains, cotton, and oilseeds. Rainfall also diminished over Bangladesh, further aiding flood recovery, but locally heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) continued in rice areas of east-central India (Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal). During July, the monsoon gradually intensified, bringing much-needed rain to previously dry cotton, oilseed, and coarse grain areas of central and southern India. Showers also fell across northern India and Pakistan despite the absence of the traditional monsoon circulation pattern. In the east, periods of heavy showers maintained adequate to excessive moisture levels for rice in Bangladesh and neighboring areas of eastern India, with occasional flooding. July temperatures averaged near to above normal, with the hottest weather generally confined to the remaining dry spots in western India and Pakistan.


Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
CHINA
PAKISTAN
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
NEPAL
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
Rajasthan
Assam
Nag.
Bihar
BANGLADESH
Man.
Tri.
Madhya Pradesh
West Bengal
Miz.
Gujarat
INDIA
Orissa
BURMA
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
BAY OF BENGAL
ARABIAN SEA
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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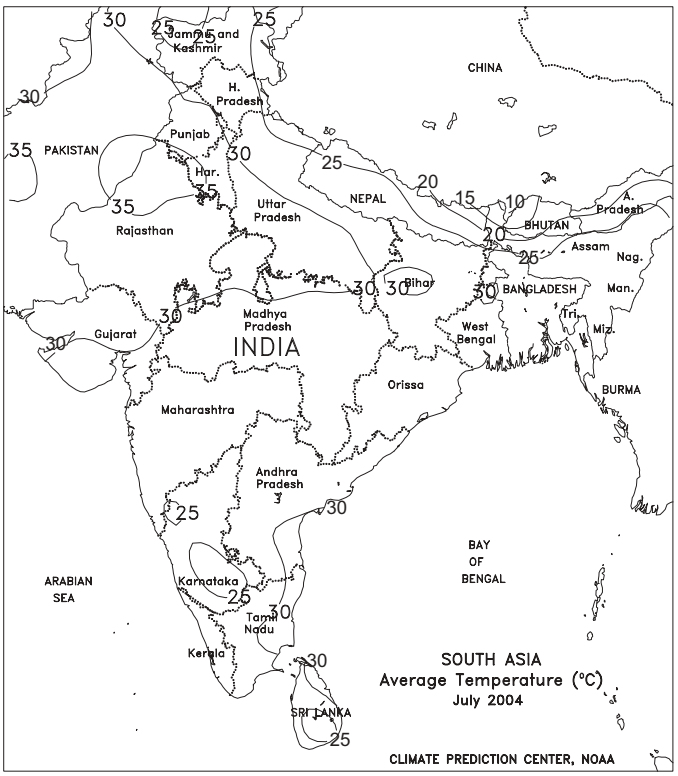
H. Pradesh
CHINA
PAKISTAN
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
NEPAL
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
Rajasthan
Assam
Nag.
Bihar
BANGLADESH
Man.
Tri.
Madhya Pradesh
West Bengal
Miz.
Gujarat
INDIA
Orissa
BURMA
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
BAY OF BENGAL
ARABIAN SEA
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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H. Pradesh
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Punjab
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NEPAL
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BHUTAN
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Bihar
BANGLADESH
Man.
Tri.
Madhya Pradesh
West Bengal
Miz.
Gujarat
INDIA
Orissa
BURMA
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
BAY OF BENGAL
ARABIAN SEA
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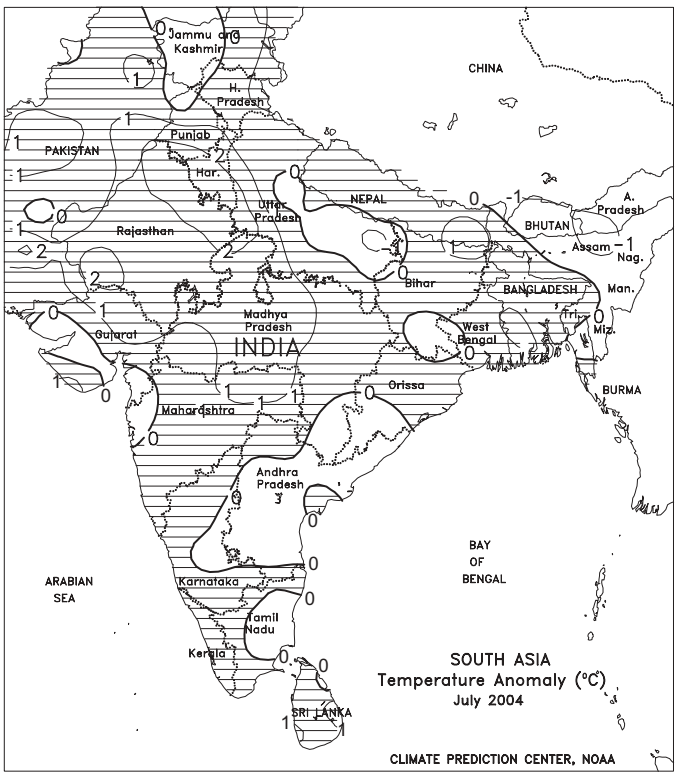
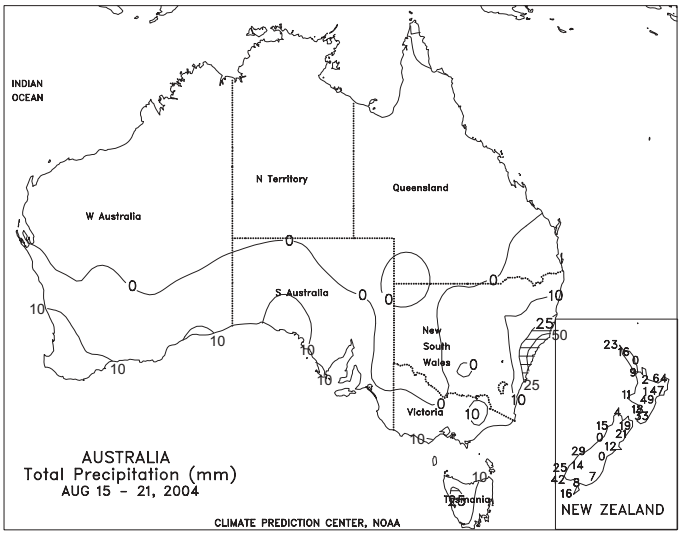
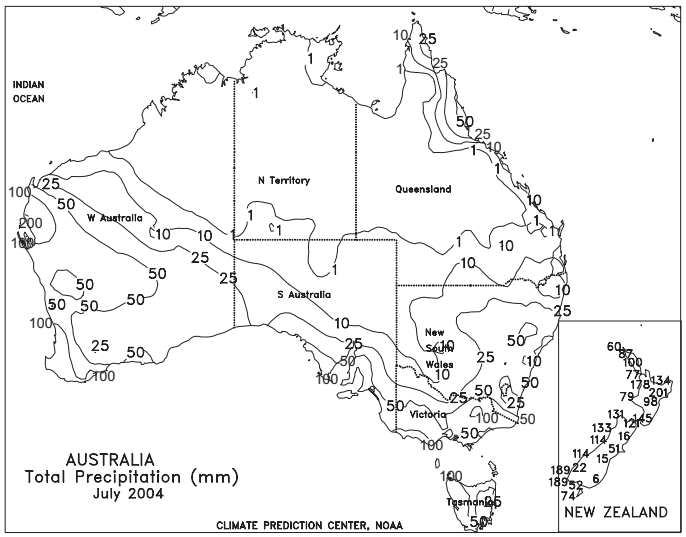
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

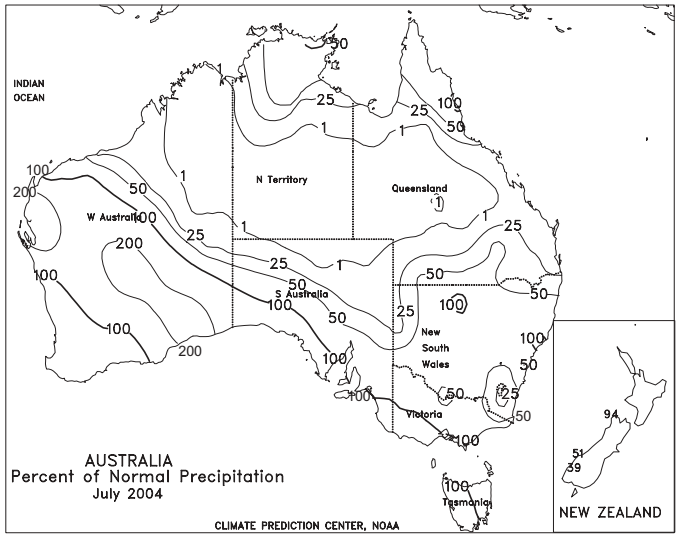

Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
CHINA
PAKISTAN
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
NEPAL
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
Rajasthan
Assam
Nag.
Bihar
BANGLADESH
Man.
Tri.
Madhya Pradesh
West Bengal
Miz.
Gujarat
INDIA
Orissa
BURMA
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
BAY OF BENGAL
ARABIAN SEA
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
July 2004
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

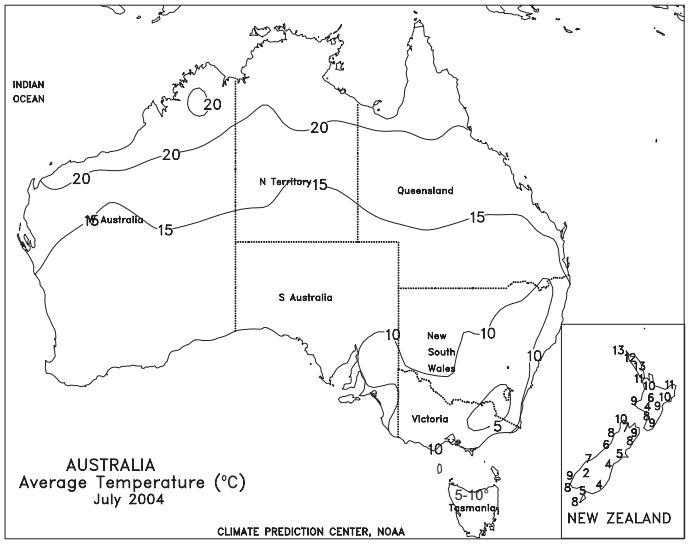


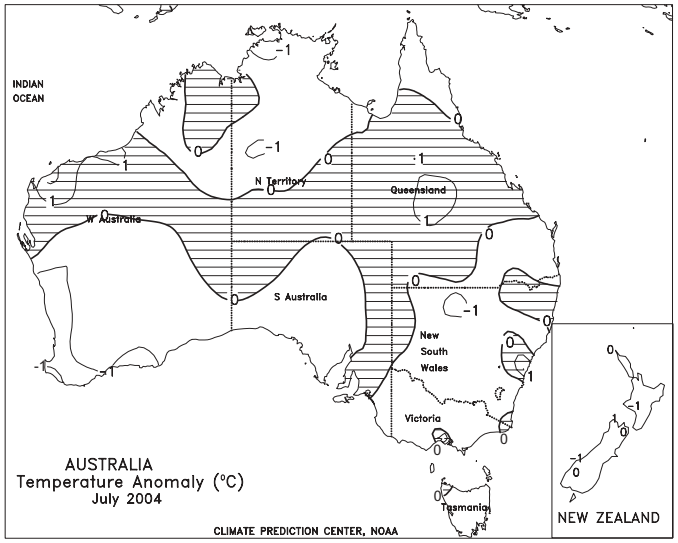
AUSTRALIA

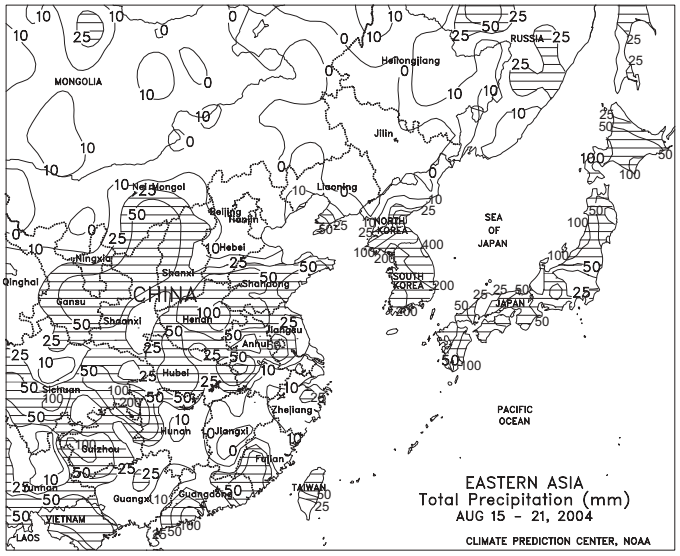
Mostly dry weather (less than 5 mm) continued across Queensland and northern New South Wales, further reducing moisture supplies for vegetative winter wheat and barley. Although the dry weather favored fieldwork, including early summer crop planting, winter grain prospects will likely begin to decline if more consistent rain does not fall through September, when winter grains advance through the critical reproductive phase of development. Similarly, dry weather overspread major winter grain areas in southern New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Recent rainfall has maintained adequate topsoil moisture for winter grain development across much of this region. However, more rain would be welcomed in southeastern Australia to alleviate long-term moisture deficits. Farther west, light showers (4-21 mm) prevailed in Western Australia, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture supplies for jointing winter wheat and barley. Temperatures across Australia averaged about 1 to 2 degrees C below normal, reducing evaporative losses. In July, mostly dry weather in Queensland and northern New South Wales continued to reduce topsoil moisture for winter grains. In contrast, near- to above-normal rainfall brought additional relief to drought-plagued southeastern Australia, favoring winter wheat and barley. Occasional showers in Western Australia maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for winter grains. Seasonably mild weather favored crops across the continent.





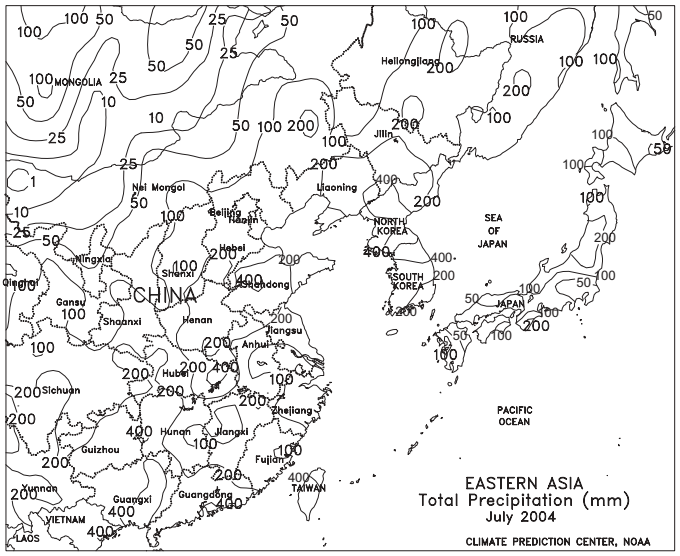


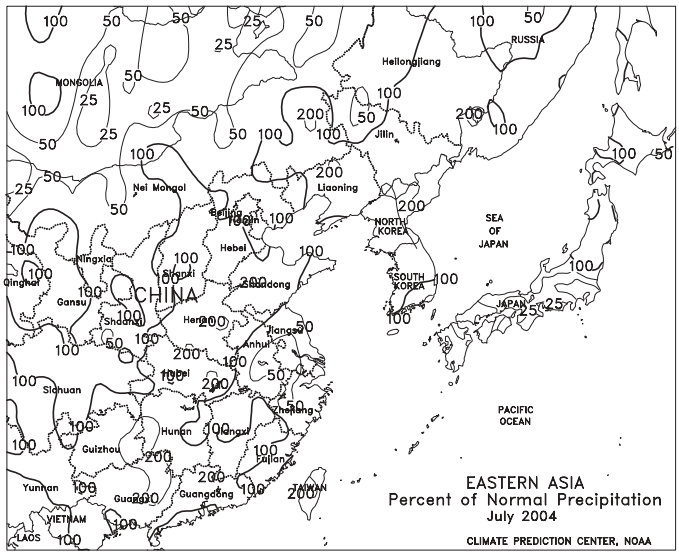


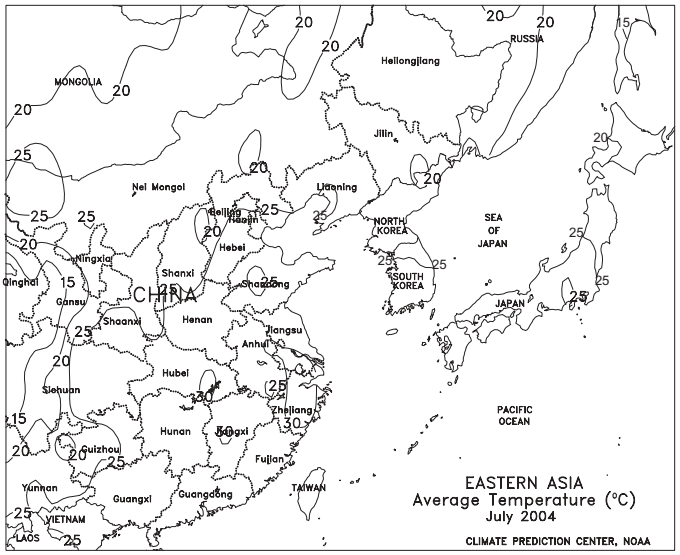


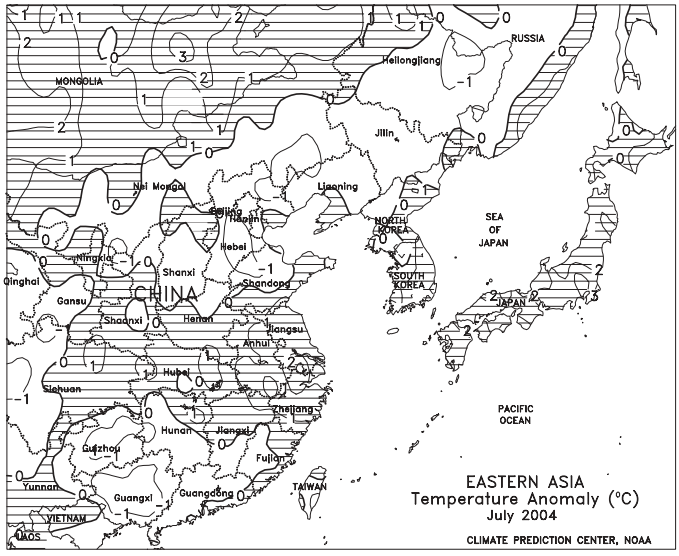
EASTERN ASIA

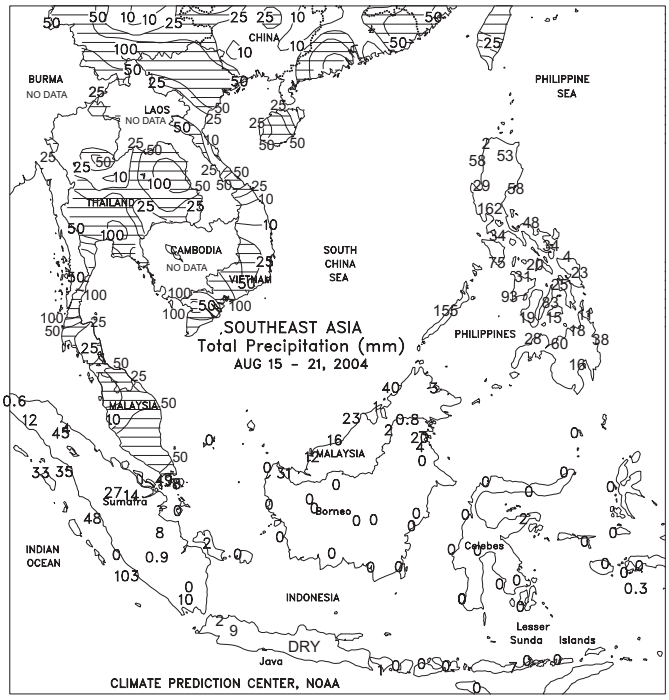
Heavy showers (50-100 mm) provided unfavorably wet conditions for maturing cotton, corn, and soybeans on the North China Plain. Dry weather in Manchuria favored maturing crops and early harvest activities. Mostly dry weather in the southeast eased excessive wetness caused by Typhoon Rananim last week, while showers (25-100 mm) fell along the Yangtze Valley into the Sichuan Basin. Temperatures were 1 to 5 degrees C below normal as the excessive heat of previous weeks was confined to the southeast coastal provinces. Typhoon Megi moved into the Sea of Japan clipping southeastern South Korea. The storm brought heavy rains (100-200 mm) to most of South Korea along with high winds (60 knots). The rainfall likely caused some flooding but provided beneficial moisture to rice areas that have become unfavorably dry over the last 4 weeks. Japan also benefited from an increase in rainfall due to Megi albeit lighter. In July, near- to above-normal rainfall provided beneficial moisture to crops entering reproduction. In Manchuria, rainfall boosted soil moisture for corn and soybeans in Jilin and Liaoning, while some dryness continued in western Heilongjiang. Moisture levels were favorable for corn, soybeans, and cotton on the North China Plain and in southwestern China. In southeastern China, however, warm, dry weather reduced irrigation supplies for rice.





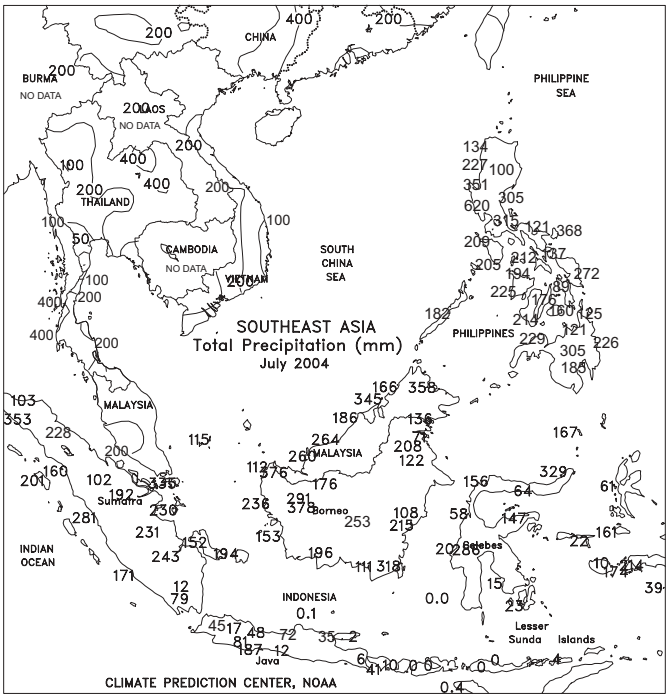


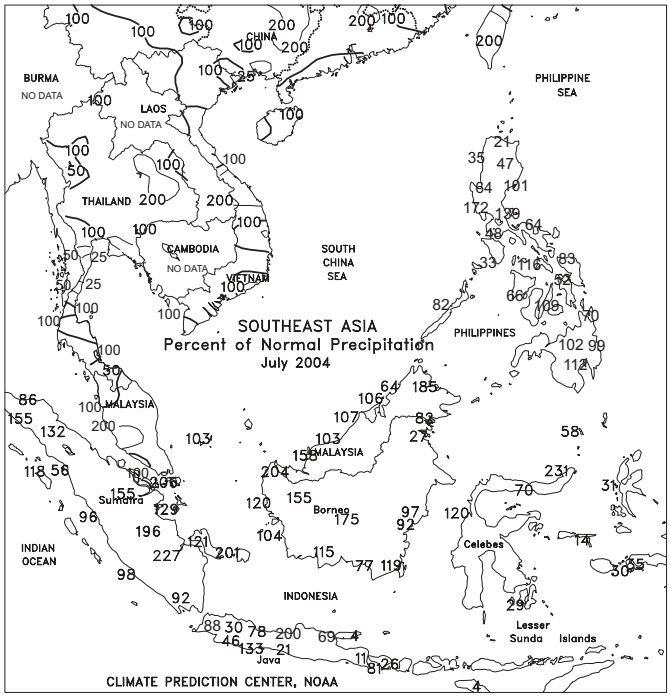


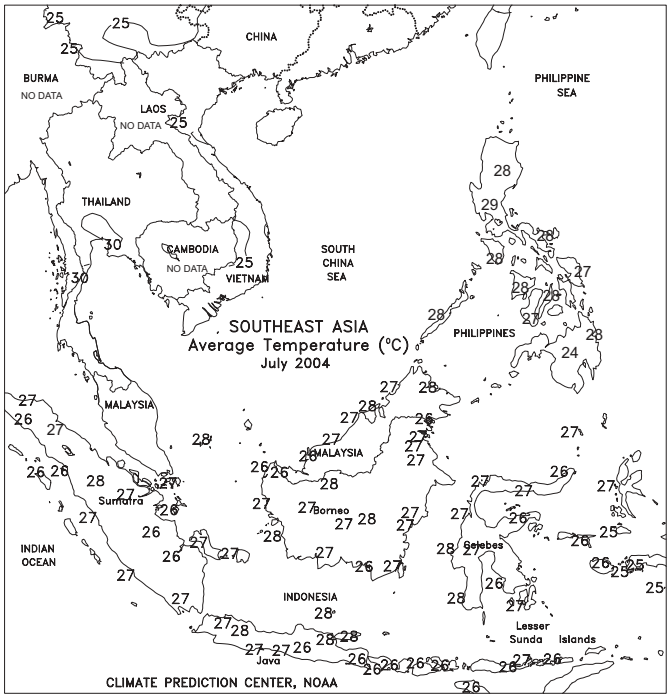


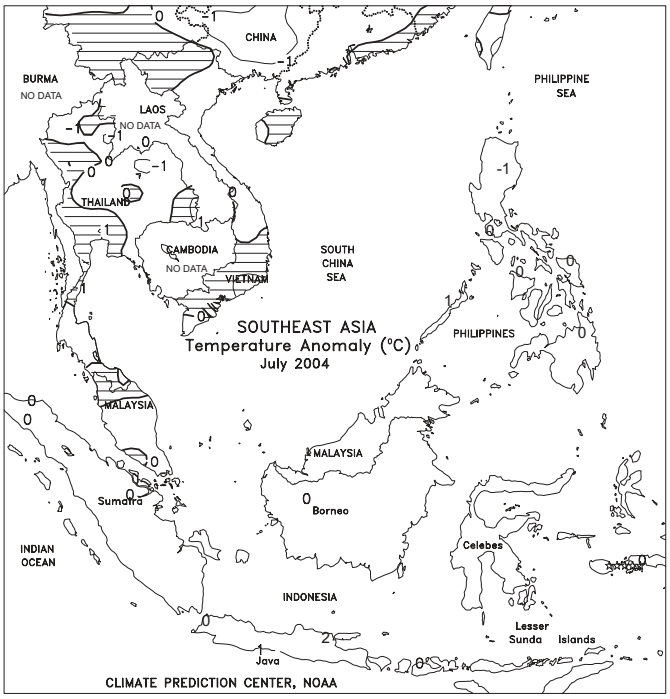
SOUTHEAST ASIA

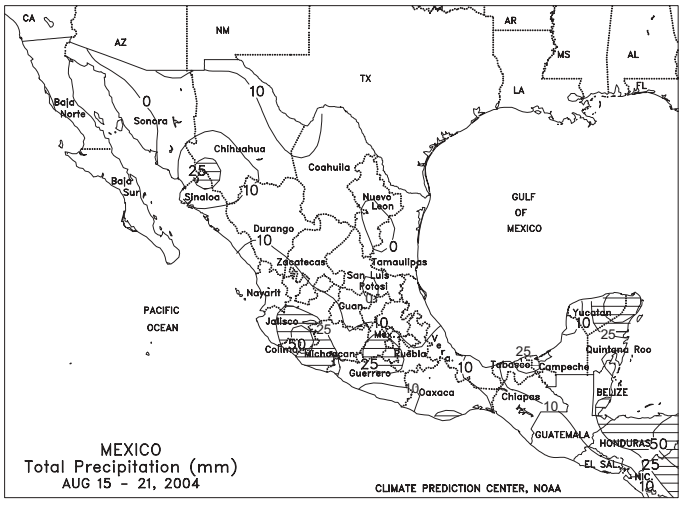
Heavy monsoon showers (25-100 mm or more) boosted moisture supplies for rice and corn throughout most of the Philippines, while light showers prevailed in Mindanao. Heavy showers (50-100 mm) also fell in eastern and southern Thailand as well as major rice areas of northern and southern Vietnam. Seasonably dry weather prevailed throughout Indonesia, while showers increased moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia. In July, below-normal rainfall lowered moisture supplies throughout most of Luzon, the Philippines, while near- to above-normal rainfall provided adequate moisture for rice and corn elsewhere. In Indochina, seasonable rainfall maintained good moisture supplies for rice. Above-normal rainfall boosted moisture supplies for oil palm in Malaysia and Indonesia.





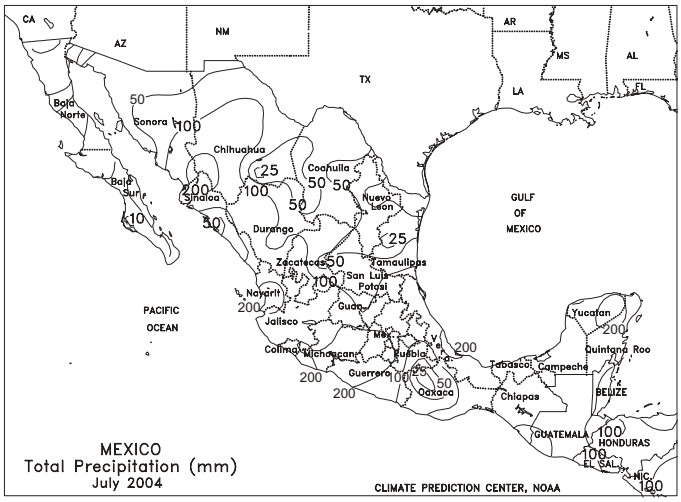


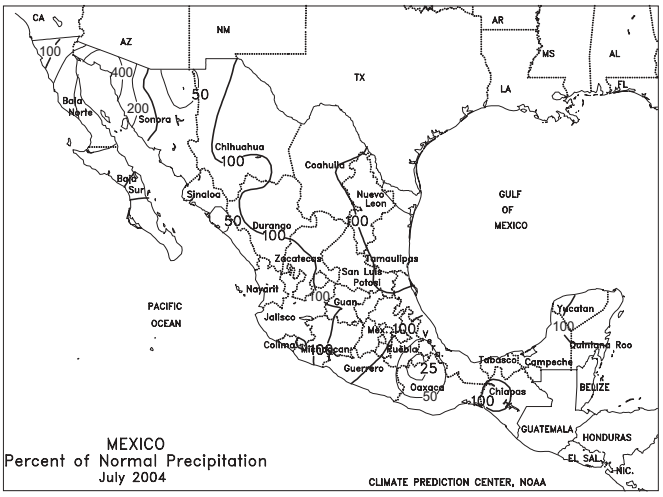


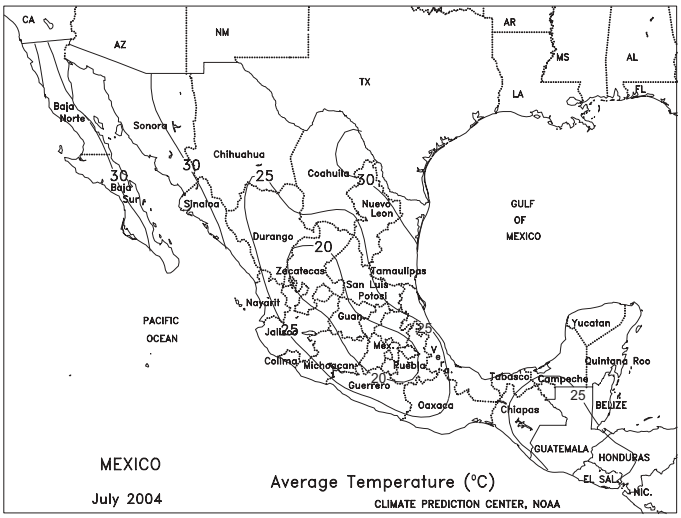


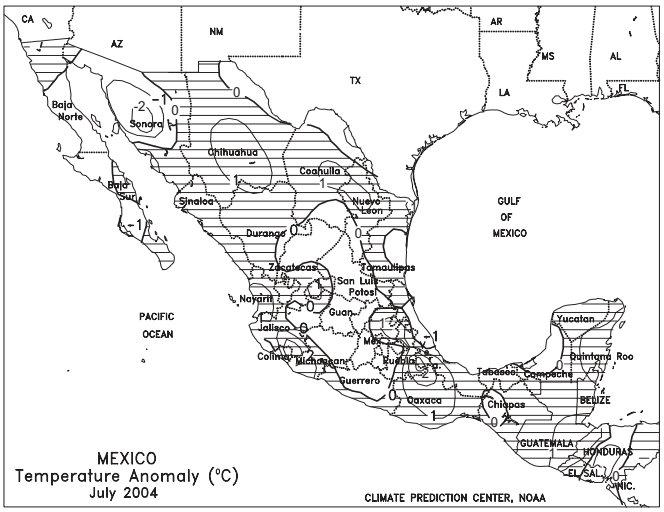
MEXICO

Widespread showers (15-50 mm) continued to cover the main Mexican corn belt and southern Mexico, maintaining adequate soil moisture for reproductive to filling corn. Across the western Sierra Madre, showers (15-60 mm) continued to boost irrigation supplies. Across northeastern and east-central Mexico, mostly dry weather prevailed, reducing soil moisture for sugarcane and oranges. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal across north-central Mexico and 1 to 3 degrees C above normal elsewhere. During July, slightly below- to near-normal rainfall across the main corn belt maintained adequate soil moisture for corn development. Near- to above-normal rainfall increased irrigation supplies across north-central and northwestern Mexico. Below-normal rainfall reduced irrigation supplies across the northeast.









BRAZIL

Warm, dry weather dominated primary coffee areas of the center-south and northeast, improving harvest conditions. According to independent analyst Safras e Mercado, coffee was 77 percent harvested as of August 16, compared with 89 percent last season. Harvesting was 69 percent complete in Minas Gerais, which accounts for nearly half of the total production, versus 83 percent at this point last season. Elsewhere, lingering showers (10-40 mm or more) boosted moisture levels for immature winter wheat in Rio Grande do Sul, but most other grain areas remained dry. Seasonable temperatures sustained normal irrigation requirements for corn and cotton in the northeastern interior. In July, unseasonable showers returned to the coffee belt during July 18-24, renewing quality concerns and hampering drydown and harvesting. Elsewhere, frequent showers maintained irrigation reserves in coastal sugarcane and cocoa areas, while in the interior, warmth and dryness maintained irrigation requirements of immature corn and cotton.


BRAZIL
Total Precipitation (mm)
July 2004
VENEZUELA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Mato Grosso
Bahia
Golas
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Tu.
Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
Chaco
Formosa
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Percent of Normal Precipitation
July 2004
VENEZUELA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Mato Grosso
Bahia
Golas
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Tu.
Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
Chaco
Formosa
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Average Temperature (°C)
July 2004
VENEZUELA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
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Mato Grosso
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Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
Chaco
Formosa
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
July 2004
VENEZUELA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
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Amapa
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Para
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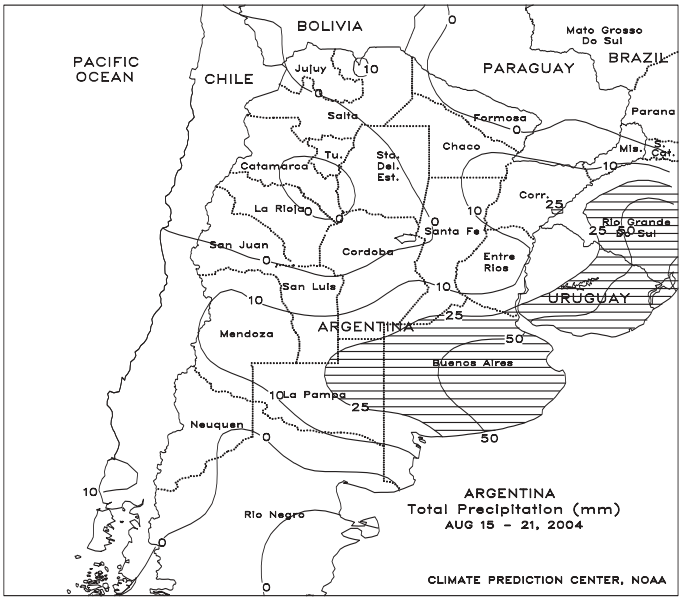
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA



ARGENTINA

Cool, showery weather (temperatures averaging 2-5 degrees C below normal; rainfall totaling 25-75 mm or more) overspread primary southern winter wheat areas (La Pampa and Buenos Aires), maintaining favorable moisture reserves for germination but slowing final plantings. According to the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, winter wheat was about 94 percent planted as of August 20, compared with 97 percent last year. The emerging crop was reportedly in generally good condition. During July, early-month dryness supported final summer crop harvesting but reportedly resulted in additional local delays in winter wheat planting. Later in the month, soaking rain finally developed in southern portions of the wheat belt (La Pampa and southern Buenos Aires), ending the protracted dry spell that limited moisture reserves for crop emergence and establishment. In fact, rainfall was near to above normal in most major winter wheat areas, the exception included outlying crop areas of Santa Fe and Entre Rios. Temperatures averaged above normal for most of the month, promoting summer crop drydown and fostering early wheat development.